(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have assessed the positive impact of rising rupee on Indian trade particularly imports, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In response to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 264 replied on 4th December, 2007, it was mentioned that in certain sectors like textiles, leather, marine products and handicrafts, there is a net decline in exports which has led to job losses. While the exact details are not available, it was estimated that unless remedial measures are taken, the total job losses could be as high as 2 million.

(c) and (d) While no specific study has been conducted to assess the positive impact of rising rupee, it is expected that importers will have gained on account of lower cost of import on account of rupee appreciation.

Land through negotiation with farmers for SEZs

623. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider the proposal that the promoters of Special Economic Zones should buy land through negotiation with farmers rather than expect it to be acquired by Government.

(b) whether Government will also consider determining the market value of the land as the minimum price;

(c) how many SEZ projects have been sanctioned by the Government in the last six months;

(d) the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) what criteria was adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) All State Governments have been instructed that the Board of Approval will not approve any Special Economic Zones (SEZs) where the State Governments have carried out or purpose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

(c) to (e) The Board of Approval (BoA) constituted under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 considers proposals for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as per the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 and the objectives enshrined therein as well as applicable administrative guidelines as laid down for this purpose. Only those proposals which are duly recommended by the State Government concerned are considered by the Board of Approval. State-wise numbers of SEZs formally approved during last 6 months are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of the formal approval
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
3.	Gujarat	9
4.	Haryana	7
5.	Karnataka	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4
7.	Maharashtra	13
8.	Nagaland	1
9.	Rajasthan	2
10.	Tamil Nadu	4
11.	Uttar Pradesh	11
12.	West Bengal	9
	TOTAL	76

SEZ for marine products at Machillipatnam

624. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a SEZ is proposed in Machillipatnam in 260 acres exclusively for marine products;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that MPEDA has also agreed to start SEZ for marine products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No approval has, so far, been granted for setting up of SEZ in Machillipatnam.

Tie up of multinational retail companies and Indian middlemen

625. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the reports that multinational retail companies are tying up with Indian middlemen to launch their shops in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?